DRIVER PACKAGE -Emotiva Pro Stealth DC-1 Unified Windows USB Drivers



(current as of July 20, 2013)

The drivers in this package are the most current drivers from C-Media for the high-speed USB interface in the Stealth DC-1 (the DC-1 uses the C-Media CM6631A USB chip). This package includes drivers for Windows XP, and both the 32 bit and 64 bit versions of Windows Vista, Windows 7, and Windows 8.

NOTE: Even drivers that have been thoroughly tested may offer slightly different options on different computers. Some factors that may affect this include: the specific version of Windows you are running, other programs and/or drivers installed on your computer, sound cards or other audio devices installed in your computer, other devices (especially DACs) that you have connected externally, and your computer hardware itself.

NOTE: The same drivers will work with the Emotiva Pro Stealth DC-1 and the Emotiva XDA-2; if you have previously installed drivers for an XDA-2 (or also currently use an XDA-2), then you do NOT have to reinstall the drivers.

The following table lists the current status of each driver in this set:

Operating System	Status
Windows XP SP3 (32 bit)	TESTED: OK
Windows XP Pro (32 bit)	TESTED: OK
Windows 7 SP1 (32 bit)	TESTED: OK
Windows 7 SP1 (64 bit)	TESTED: OK
Windows 8 (32 bit)	TESTED: OK
Windows 8 (64 bit)	TESTED: OK

Supported rates: 44.1k, 48k, 88.2k, 96k, 176.4k and 192k

Supported bit depths: 16 bits and 24 bits

Installing The Drivers

Installing the drivers is simple (but please read all the notes so you know what to expect):

- 1) UnZip the driver file into a folder using your favorite archiver program.
- 2) Connect the DC-1 to your computer.
- 3) Run SETUP.EXE in the main folder of the driver package.
- 4) Follow the on-screen prompts.

NOTE: You MAY install the drivers from a USB stick or shared network drive.

NOTE: When you first connect your DC-1 to your computer, Windows may attempt to install default drivers, and may even connect to the Internet (Microsoft Update) to do so. You may also see messages indicating that the process was NOT completed successfully; simply ignore them and close any dialog boxes that prompt for a response. You may allow this process to complete, but, even if it completes successfully, it does NOT eliminate the need to install the drivers in this package. (The default Windows drivers will NOT work properly with the DC-1).

NOTE: In an ideal world, a computer used as an audio player would have a totally new copy of Windows installed on it, and no other software; this would ensure the fewest interactions, and the least processing delay, and so the best audio performance. Likewise, there are whole websites dedicated just to the best way to optimize Windows for playing computer audio - and many others dedicated to choosing and configuring a player program. (This isn't practical for most people, but the fewer other programs you have running, and the fewer other devices and drivers you use, the more likely you are to have good audio performance and avoid problems.)

NOTE: If your computer already has drivers installed for other audio devices that use the C-Media CM6631A interface chip, those drivers may work with the DC-1, or they may produce unpredictable results. We cannot provide support for issues you have with drivers not provided by Emotiva.

NOTE: The C-Media driver installer will usually prompt you to reboot your computer as part of the install process. We therefore suggest that you close any other programs you may have running before installing the drivers.

NOTE: The C-Media driver installer usually (depending on the operating system and other factors) requires that the DC-1 be connected, turned on, and set to the USB input while the drivers are installed.

NOTE: If you are updating a previous version of the drivers, or if you have CM6631 or CM6631A drivers from another DAC already installed on your computer, the driver installer may prompt you to "Remove" them, and then reboot your computer. Do so when prompted, and then, after the old drivers are removed and your computer is rebooted, run the driver installer again to install your new drivers.

NOTE: If your installed drivers ever become corrupted or damaged for any reason, simply use the driver installer to remove and reinstall them. (We do NOT recommend using he "Remove Programs or Drivers" option in Windows because it may not remove all traces of the driver.)

Notes: Windows XP

Windows XP works well as an audio server, and may even give you satisfactory results on slow or underpowered computers. It does, however, have limited audio setup options.

FooBar2000 (a popular free audio player) works well on Windows XP, and we recommend it as an option in this situation. (FooBar lacks most "pretty" interface options, but offers lots of more technical options, and is very flexible. Although we can't provide support for FooBar, there are all sorts of support and discussion groups dedicated to it.)

Also note that, if you do choose to use FooBar2000, FooBar in particular sometimes has an odd problem in Windows XP. If you play files with different sample rates one after the other, without closing FooBar between them, sometimes FooBar will switch to the sample rate of the first file you play, and then resample all subsequent files to that sample rate. If this happens on your system, when you want to play a file of a different sample rate, you will have to close and re-open FooBar.

NOTE: The display on the DC-1 ALWAYS displays the actual, physical sample rate of the audio it is receiving. If what you see on the display disagrees with what you expect to see based on your settings in Windows, then trust the DC-1's display

Notes: Windows 7

Windows 7 works well as an audio player, but is slightly more demanding in terms of your computer hardware. (If you play audio on a PC with Windows 7 and too little memory, or too little processing power, or too many other programs running, you may experience audio dropouts. This happens more with certain players than others, and is dependent on the specific combination of hardware and software in your PC, and on which output mode you choose.)

In specific, WASAPI modes tend to require more resources, and so are more likely to have problems on older PCs. If your player program offers the option, you may be able to reduce or eliminate these problems by adjusting your buffer settings. (Neither lower or higher is necessarily "better", so simply try until you find the one that works best on your computer.)

Different players also have wildly differing resource demands, so some players will work well on almost any machine, while some are very particular, and so difficult to get to run without problems.

NOTE: By default, Windows 7 will use Direct Sound mode (kernel streaming), which will re-sample any audio files you play to the default sample rate (as set under the Advanced Properties dialog under Sound Devices in Control Panel). In this case, your player program will display the sample rate of the actual file, but the DC-1 will display the sample rate of the audio it receives (the two will be different since Windows is re-sampling the audio); both are correct. If you don't want Windows to re-sample your files, you must choose a player program that supports WASAPI or some other "bit-perfect" mode, and select it in your player's configuration. Certain of the C-Media drivers will offer ASIO mode on some computers; whether this works well on your computer will depend on your player software (the setup options are rather complicated, and you'll have to ask your software vendor for details about how to configure them for optimum performance).

Notes: Windows 8

We have run the current DC-1 driver successfully under Windows 8 (as have several customers that we know of). Configuration options and requirements will vary depending on your hardware and Windows software configuration.

Notes: Windows 8 Tablets

The current DC-1 driver should run successfully on any Intel-based Windows 8 computer, but it will NOT run on NON-INTEL Windows RT platforms.

Notes: NON-Windows Platforms

In order to send USB audio to the DC-1, a host computer must support USB Audio Class 2 (UAC2). These drivers provide UAC2 support for Microsoft Windows (which does NOT include internal support for UAC2). Most modern Apple computers include UAC2 support in the operating system, and so should be able to communicate with the DC-1 with no additional drivers. Some Linux distributions also include UAC2 drivers. Certain hardware music player clients can also be connected to a UAC2 device (the Logitech Squeezebox can do so - if you modify or "hack" the software that runs it. It is also possible that some Android (or other) platforms include UAC2 support. If they do, and can support an "external UAC2 USB sound device", then they may work with the DC-1. Please check with the manufacturer of any such device for details. (Unfortunately, we cannot provide you with much support for such unsupported devices).

Notes: General

On some operating systems, and with some player programs, you may get an error stating that "there is no output device connected" when you start playing audio, especially if you haven't played audio for several minutes. This is a minor Windows issue (Windows occasionally "forgets" USB devices and this seems to confuse some players; if it happens, first try simply playing the file again, which will often work. If not, disconnect the DC-1, wait a few seconds for the bee-boop USB disconnect tone, reconnect the DC-1, wait for the tone indicating it is again recognized, and everything should work fine.